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Newcastle-Emlyn Urban District Council

Public Health Report for 1950

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I beg to submit my report upon the health and sanitation of your area for 1950.

VITAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area—208 acres.
Population—770.
Number of inhabited houses—253.
Rateable Value—£3,073.
Product of a penny rate—£12 2s. 9d.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Live Births : Legitimate—2 males, 3 females. Illegitimate—0.

Birth rate—6.4 per 1,000. Birth rate (England and Wales)—15.8 per 1,000.

There were no still-births, and no deaths of infants under one year.

Deaths during the year were s follows : Males—9 ; Females—8 ; total—17.

Death rate—22.0 per 1,000. Death rate (England and Wales)—11.6 per 1,000.

Average age at death—74.8 years.

The chief causes of death were :

Heart disease—5.
Vascular lesions of nervous system—3.
Cancer—2.
Respiratory Tuberculosis—2.
Suicide accounted for two deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

An outbreak of measles occurred in the town in June and July and 15 notifications were received. Recovery was uneventful. One case each of broncho-pneumonia and of whooping cough were notified. No case of diphtheria was reported this year again. During the war period an intensive effort was made to secure immunisation of all infants and children in the Urban area with the result that well over 90% of parents responded, and now the disease is uncommon. Six children under five years were immunised during 1950.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number on the register are :

Date.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
January 1	4 Males, 1 Female	——	5
Decem. 31	5 Males, 1 Female	1 Female.	7

Two deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis occured during the year and one new case (non-pulmonary) was reported. The outlook for this disease has improved with the introduction of the new drugs, Strepto-

mycin and P.A.S. Although many questions remain yet unanswered and investigations still continue, these drugs are regarded as a potent remedy and are being utilised in sanatoria and in general practice.

HOSPITAL AND AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The district is served by the West Wales Hospital, Carmarthen (20 miles distant), Cardigan Hospital (10 miles), and Aberystwyth Hospital (35 miles), and when necessary by other institutions further afield. Transport facilities are provided by ambulances stationed at Newcastle-Emlyn, Llandyssul, and the hospital towns. Pathological investigations are carried out at the Clinical Laboratory, Carmarthen.

HOUSING.

I am pleased to report some progress with our Housing Schemes. Plans originally made earlier this year had to be modified to meet Ministry restrictions. Eventually new ones were approved and a contract made for the erection of six permanent houses on the New Road site. Building operations are to commence early next year. It is hoped that the Council's building programme, which has been long held up by various factors, geographical and economic, will be energetically pursued in the future. The six houses, soon to be erected, will be a start, but the housing situation calls for many more.

WATER SUPPLY.

An ample supply of pure water was maintained throughout the year. The work of replacing the old mains has not yet been commenced. A large proportion of the piping required has been delivered, but shortage of labour has delayed relaying operations. Laboratory reports of water analyses are satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The situation remains as described in my last report. It is regretted that a number of houses in the town are without a water carriage system.

RAT INFESTATION AND SCAVENGING.

The Council employs a rodent operator on a part-time basis and premises and dumps are inspected and baited as required. Refuse is still collected by open cart once weekly and dumped near the main road just outside the town. I recommend a twice-weekly collection and conveyance to a more isolated site.

GENERAL REMARKS.

It is pleasing to report that the health of the community remained good and that no major medical problem arose during the year. At first glance the death-rate appears high, but this is due to the smallness of the population and to the relatively large number of elderly retired people living here. It will be noted that the average age at death was 74.8 years Indeed, Newcastle-Emlyn might well add longevity to its list of charms and attractions, as many of its residents attain a ripe old age, one of them, in particular, reaching his century in fine form this year. Recent investigations in various parts of the country have shown that increasing longevity is being accompanied by a rising vitality of older decades which should make for a lengethening of the present working life beyond the age of 65.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully

S. ROBERTS,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.M.S.S.A.,

Medical Officer of Health.